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GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1941

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Public Health Staff consists of:

Medical Officer of Health.

2 Medical Officers to the Infant Welfare Centres.

2 Public Vaccinators.

One Sanitary Inspector is employed full-time and holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute.

One Health Visitor (whole-time) who is a State Registered Nurse with a General and Fever Training Certificate, the C.M.B. Diploma and the Health Visitor's Certificate.

The Matron of the Garngoch Isolation Hospital is a State Registered Nurse with a General and Fever Training Certificate.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are half paid locally and half paid out of the County Funds.

During the year, Miss V. M. K. Thomas, Matron of Garngoch Isolation Hospital resigned her position, to be married, the new Matron being Miss D. Adams.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the Gower Rural District Council for the year 1941.

(a) Area: The District is divided into 17 Parishes, the acreage of each Parish being as follows:

LIST OF PARISHES.	ACREAGE.
Bishopston	2598.
Llanmadoc	1463.
Cheriton	1427.
Ilston	3109.
Reynoldston	1069.
Knelston	548.
Llangennith	3373.
Llanrhidian Higher	5212.
Llanrhidian Lower	6125.
Nicholaston	517.
Penmaen	1005.
Oxwich	1342.
Pennard	2862.
Penrice	2127.
Porteynon	1151.
Llandewi	2010.
Rhossilli	2215.
	38,153.

The rateable value of the district was £33,000 which represents a sum of £118 as the yield of a penny rate.

(b) BIRTHS: The number of live births registered for the district during 1941, represents a birth rate of 15.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This rate compares favourably with that recorded for England and Wales, which is given as 14.2 per 1,000 population.

(c) DEATHS. The net total deaths after allowing for Inward and Outward Transfers represents a death rate of 14.0 per 1000 of the average population and is somewhat higher than the figure of 12.9 per 1,000 population given for England and Wales.

(d) INFANT MORTALITY. There were 7 deaths in children under 1 year, during 1941, which gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 39 per 1,000 total live births and 44.4 per 1000 total legitimate births.

(e) MATERNAL MORTALITY. No deaths were registered in the Gower area as being due to Puerperal Sepsis or any maternal causes. The rates for Puerperal Sepsis and Puerperal causes for England and Wales was 2.23 per 1,000 total births.

(f) Diarrhoea and Enteritis. Two deaths were registered from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under the age of two years, for the district during 1941, giving a rate of 11.1 per 1,000 live births; the rate for England and Wales was 5.1 per 1000 live births.

The rates and deaths from Infectious Diseases in 1941 are as follows:

		ENGLAND AND WALES.
Smallpox	0 or 0.00 per 1000.	0.00 per 1000 population.
Scarlet Fever	0 or 0.00 " "	0.00 " " "
Whooping Cough	1 or 0.08 " "	0.06 " " "
Diphtheria	0 or 0.00 " "	0.07 " " "
Measles	1 or 0.08 " "	0.03 " " "
Typhoid and Para typhoid	0 or 0.00 " "	0.00 " " "
Influenza and Pneumonia	8 or 0.70 " "	0.19 " " "
Cerebrospinal Fever	1 or 0.08 " "	Not available.

Eight deaths were due to all forms of Pneumonia, Eight to Bronchitis, and six from other forms of Respiratory Diseases, which gives a total of 22 deaths from all forms of Respiratory Diseases apart from Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 1.93 per 1,000 of the population.

Six deaths were registered from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System giving a death rate of .52 per 1000 of the population.

Nine deaths were registered from Violence apart from Suicide, there being no suicidal deaths.

Cancer and other forms of malignant disease caused 16 deaths, giving a death rate of 1.4 per 1000 of the population.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1941.

DISEASES	Number of Cases														
	At all ages	Age Periods.												Total cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
		Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.		
Small pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	8.	-	-	-	-	1	3.	2.	-	1.	-	1.	-	8.	-
Diphtheria	40.	-	1.	1.	-	5.	14.	12.	2.	5.	1.	-	-	40.	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia (including Influenza)	2.	The Age distribution of the two cases of Pneumonia cannot be given as no case was notified.													2.
Erysipelas	1.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	1.
Cerebrospinal Fever.	2.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	2.	1.
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4.	1.	-	-	-	1.	2.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
Measles	-.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

8 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified in 1941. Six deaths were registered from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The existing arrangement between the Medical Officers of the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Service, and the General Practitioners of the district appears efficient and satisfactory. All new cases are, as a rule, referred to the Tuberculosis Physician for confirmation of diagnosis, for diagnosis and treatment, for continued observation of progress. Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease is given in the following Table:-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1941.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - ...	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - ...	-	-	1.	2.	-	-	-	-
25 - ...	1.	2.	-	-	-	1.	-	-
35 - ...	1.	1.	-	-	2.	1.	-	-
45 - ...	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
55 - ...	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
TOTALS:	3.	5.	1.	2.	4.	2.	-	-

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATION 1925.

No action was taken under this Regulation during the year 1941 relating to Tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken under this section during the year 1941.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by Dr. Sladden at the 'Beck' Laboratory Swansea. All Medical Practitioners within the district can have any samples examined free of cost, the cost being borne by your Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance is provided for the removal of Infectious cases to the Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non-infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases. A voluntary motor ambulance is provided for the conveyance of non-infectious, accident and maternity cases.

Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.

For ordinary sickness or accident, the service of five Queen Victoria Memorial Association Nurses is available for the different parishes of the district.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

In case of severe epidemics such as Measles or Influenza, the Committees of the various Welfares in the district under the direction of the Health Visitor, are available for the home nursing.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

1. - There are three Infant Welfare Centres in the District:-

Dunvant	...	held on alternate Tuesdays.
Penclawdd	...	held on alternate Wednesdays.
Bishopston	...	held on alternate Tuesdays.

The attendance at the Clinics during 1941 is as follows:-

Dunvant	...	No. on Register ...	100	Infants.
		Average attendance .	54	"
Penclawdd	...	No. on Register ...	120	"
		Average attendance .	68	"
Bishopston	...	No. on Register ...	70	"
		Average attendance .	48	"

School Clinics. The School Clinics in the district are held at the Gowerton Council Schools, where the children are treated periodically by the Education Authorities' Medical Officers.

Tuberculosis Clinics: The treatment of Tuberculosis is in the care of the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association, and patients suffering from the disease attend the Dispensary at 10, Grove Place, Swansea, which is open daily (except Fridays) from 9.30 to 12 a.m.

Sanatorium accommodation for the district is provided at the various Sanatoria in Wales, there being no local Sanatoria.

Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

The infectious cases in the district are treated at the Garngoch Isolation Hospital, where the facilities provided, lend themselves to the adequate nursing of the various cases which are admitted.

During the year, the number of cases admitted comprised:

40 cases of Diphtheria. 8 cases of Scarlet Fever.

Vaccination: There are certain risks if the vaccination law is not complied with. It is advisable especially during Wartime that vaccination should be carried out.

Hospitals. The Hospitals where treatment is available for the inhabitants of the district are as tabulated below:-

Hospital.	Situation.	Purpose.	Beds.
Gorseinon General & Maternity.	Gorseinon.	General and Maternity.	Medical and Surgical 60 beds. Children, 10, and Maternity 10. Ear, Nose & Throat.
Swansea General & Eye Hospital.	Swansea.	General.	Medical & Surgical, Children, Maternity, Ear, Nose and Throat. Venereal Diseases.
Llanelly District General Hospital.	Llanelly.	General.	-Do-
West Glamorgan Hospital.	Neath.	General & Maternity.	
	Bridgend.	Mental.	
	Hensol Castle	Mental Deficiency.	
Isolation.	Garngoch Common.	Isolation.	Infectious Diseases. 32 beds.

Midwifery and Maternity Service. Most Maternity cases are attended at home by Midwives while others make use of the Gorseinon Maternity Hospital, local practitioners being called in if required. Infective cases are treated at the Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Complicated pregnancies and Obstetrical emergencies are admitted to the West Glamorgan Hospital, Neath.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.
Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children is provided for by the respective Public Assistance Authorities at Pontardawe and Penmaen.

Health Visitor.

During the year, the Health Visitor paid:

1.	To expentant mothers	-	First Visits	- 5.
			Total Visits	- 17.
2.	To children under 1 year of age	-	First Visits	- 140.
			Total Visits	- 1119.
3.	To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	-	Total Visits	- 1844.

Infant Life Protection - Children and Young Persons Act, 1932.

Any cases coming under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, are reported by the Health Visitor.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Orthopaedic cases are sent to the Glamorgan County Clinic at Pontardawe and Neath, which are the nearest to the District.

IMMUNISATION.

The number of children completely immunised against Diphtheria during the year was as follows:

118 Pre-school children.
295 School children.
413.

Each child receives two injections at intervals of one month.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, AND MILK AND CREAM REGULATION.

The duties of inspection under the above Acts are entrusted to the Officers of the County Police of, and above the rank of Sergeant.

Through the kindness of Superintendent L. Wilkins, I am able to give the following particulars of samples taken and sent to the Public Analyst, to be analysed under the Food and Drugs Act, etc., in the Gower Rural District during the year 1941;

New Milk ... 17 ... Satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgnd.) G. E. DONOVAN.

Gorseinon,
SEPTEMBER, 1942.